

Att. Docket 4119-00400
(formerly 86007.40)

Patent

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 3, 2005, and the references cited by the Examiner have been carefully reviewed by Applicant. Claims 1-3, 7-17, 19, 25-27 are currently pending. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 7, 12, and 17, and cancelled claims 4-6, 18, and 20-24. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims, for the reasons discussed below, place this case in condition for allowance and Applicant earnestly seeks such allowance.

Drawings

In the Office Action mailed January 3, 2005, the Examiner objected to the drawings, stating that the drawings were informal. Although Applicant originally filed the application with informal drawings, formal drawings were submitted to the Patent Office by Applicant on November 10, 2003 in response to a Notice to File Corrected Application Papers sent on September 10, 2003, which required formal drawings. However, Applicant has provided another copy of the formal drawings that were previously submitted on November 10, 2003.

Rejection of Claims

Independent Claim 1

In the Office Action mailed January 3, 2005, the Examiner rejected the claims pending in the present case based on numerous references, but primarily on Jacobs (U.S. Patent No. 5,642,119) and Mushell (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,348). The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S. C. Section 102 based on Jacobs. Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that the antenna coupled to the parking meter is for receiving a wireless broadcast data including a time-of-day data based on an atomic clock, and that the receiver communicating with the antenna is to

Atty. Docket 4119-00400
(formerly 86007.40)

Patent

demodulate the wireless broadcast data received by the antenna, the processor operable to synchronize the clock based on the time-of-day data.

In rejecting claim 1 based on Jacobs, the Examiner points to Jacobs Figure 14, the antenna 124, and receiver 122 as showing Applicant's antenna and receiver. However, the Jacobs antenna 124 and receiver 122 are part of the detect circuit that comprises a RADAR (Radio Detection and Ranging) system to determine whether a car is parked in the parking spot metered by the parking meter. (Col. 11, Lines 5-45) The Jacobs system fails to disclose Applicant's amended antenna for receiving a wireless broadcast data including a time-of-day data based on an atomic clock. Further Jacobs fails to disclose the processor operable to synchronize the clock based on the time-of-day data.

The amendments to claim 1 are similar to aspects in Applicant's cancelled claim 6 which related to clock synchronization, and cancelled claim 8 which related the time of day data to the atomic clock. The Examiner rejected the clock synchronization element citing Mushell and the atomic clock element citing Chen (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. US 2004/0183946). Mushell teaches a portable terminal 25 carried by a meter maid that transmits a signal that can be used to synchronize a parking meter clock. Chen teaches a method for obtaining an atomic clock signal broadcast. However, there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant invention is not a combination of these disclosures, but instead eliminates the need for the meter maid to carry the portable terminal of Mushell to synchronize the parking meter clock. This is one of the advantages and reasons discussed in the present application for receiving a wireless broadcast data including a time-of-day data based on an atomic clock.

*Att. Docket 4119-00400
(formerly 86007.40)*

Patent

Since these references, either alone or in combination, fail to provide the suggestion or motivation for the combination, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claim 1, and dependent claims 2 and 3, be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Independent Claim 7

In the Office Action mailed January 3, 2005, the Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 based on Mushell. Applicant has amended claim 7 to include intermittently initiating, by a processor of the parking meter, synchronization of the clock. As discussed above, Mushell uses the portable terminal 25 carried by a meter maid to initiate transmitting a signal that can be used to synchronize a parking meter clock. The processor of the parking meter of Mushell does not intermittently initiate the synchronization of the clock, as claimed in Applicant's amended claim 7, since without the portable terminal 25 nearby there would be no signal for the parking meter of Mushell to receive. Since the present invention as claimed in amended claim 7 receives its signal from a different source, the processor of claim 7 can unilaterally initiate receiving and synchronizing the parking meter clock.

In rejecting Applicant's claim 9, which includes a time reference generated by a television signal, the Examiner points to Landis which discloses decoding a data component of a television signal. Applicant submits that there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to combine Mushell and Landis as suggested by the Examiner. In fact, Mushell already teaches synchronizing the parking meter clock based on the portable terminal carried by the meter maid, which teaches away from using a television signal carrying time data for such synchronization. Further, none of the references, either alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest a processor intermittently initiating synchronization of the clock. For these reasons, Applicant

Atty. Docket 4119-00400
(formerly 86007.40)

Patent

respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 7, and dependent claims 8-11 which depend therefrom, and pass claims 7-11 to issue.

Independent Claim 12

In the Office Action mailed January 3, 2005, the Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 based on Mushell, further in view of Kassab (U.S. Patent No. 6,812,857). Applicant has amended claim 12 to include broadcasting, from a non-handheld transmitter, a time signal including a time-of-day data, and unilaterally initiating on an intermittent basis, by a processor of one of the plurality of parking meters, synchronization of a clock on the one of the plurality of parking meters. As discussed above, the Mushell clock is updated in response to the portable terminal 25 carried by a meter maid transmitting a signal. None of the cited references teach, disclose, or suggest the parking meter processor unilaterally initiating on an intermittent basis synchronization of the clock. Further, Applicant has amended claim 12 to clarify that the broadcast is from a non-handheld transmitter, since the broadcast of Mushell is from a portable terminal, which is a handheld transmitter. The broadcast, such as an AM broadcast of the atomic clock signal, may be via a transmission tower or other non-handheld transmitters.

Applicant submits that amended claim 12 and dependent claims 13-16 are not taught, disclosed, or suggested, either alone or in combination, by the references cited by the Examiner. For this reason, Applicant requests allowance of claims 12-16.

Independent Claim 17

In the Office Action mailed January 3, 2005, the Examiner rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 based on the combination of Jacobs and Mushell. Applicant has amended claim 17 to include that the processor is programmed to unilaterally initiate on an intermittent

*Atty. Docket 4119-00400
(formerly 86007.40)*

Patent

basis synchronization of the clock. As discussed above, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose this aspect. Further Applicant amended claim 17 to include that the antenna receives an AM signal of a wireless broadcast time data including data based on an atomic clock. As mentioned above and incorporated herein by reference, Applicant respectfully submits that Jacobs fails to teach or disclose an antenna as claimed to receive such a signal. Jacobs only teaches an antenna and receiver system for range finding to detect an automobile parked near the meter. Also, the cited references fail to provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for the combination with the Chen disclosure of obtaining the atomic clock signal. As discussed above, Mushell already teaches synchronizing the parking meter clock based on the portable terminal carried by the meter maid, which teaches away from using an atomic clock signal carrying time data for such synchronization.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 17 and dependent claims 19 and 25-27 are allowable, and Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of these claims and pass same to allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the application, in its present form, is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288. Applicant intends this communication to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed January 3, 2005.

Atty. Docket 4119-00400
(formerly 86007.40)

Patent

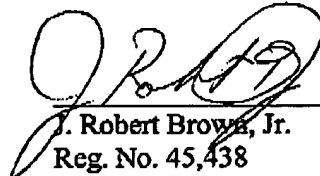
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee associated with any of the foregoing papers submitted herewith or any fees during the prosecution of the present case to Deposit Account No. 50-1515, Conley Rose, P.C.

Respectfully submitted,

CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

Date: April 4, 2005

5700 Granite Parkway, Suite 330
Plano, Texas 75024
Telephone: (972) 731-2288
Facsimile: (972) 731-2289



J. Robert Brown, Jr.
Reg. No. 45,438

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT